

Traffic Counts: Frequently Asked Questions

How is Traffic Data Used?

- Study traffic patterns and flows
- Support reports to the Federal Highway Administration
- Develop factors that assess pavement quality and design
- Make informed decisions regarding the design of new roads and maintaining existing roads
- Factor in calculating crash rates and addressing safety issues
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- Perform bridge inspections and create sufficiency reports
- Analyze freight movement
- Calculate Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Identify peak travel hours
- Assess traffic signage or signalization needs
- Inform the National Household Travel Survey on driving habits

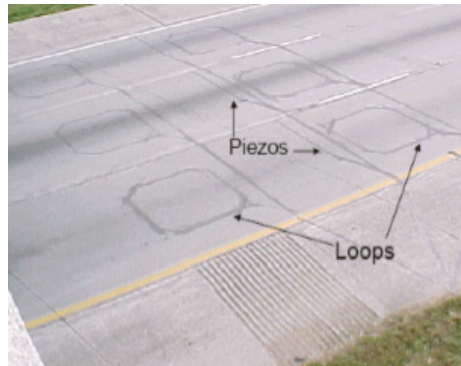
View Traffic Counts at:
www.dot.ga.gov/TrafficCounts

What is a traffic count?

A traffic count is a survey of vehicle data including volume, classification (car, truck, bus, etc.), and weigh-in-motion at a location on a roadway.



Portable Station



Continuous Count Station



Weigh-in-Motion Station

Short-term Stations (Portables)

The short-term count stations

- Count and classify traffic for 48 hours
- Utilize pneumatic tubes stretched across a road and secured on both sides
- Use an electronic counter connected to the tubes, to record and process the pulse of air created when a vehicle crosses the tubes

Annually, OTD collects short-term volume and classification counts at over 9,000 locations across the state.

Continuous Count Stations (CCS or permanent)

There are approximately 300 CCS locations, including the permanent WIM stations, throughout Georgia that

- Count and classify traffic 24/7/365
- Utilize two Inductive Loop Sensors and a Piezoelectric Sensor embedded in the pavement in each lane to detect and classify vehicles
- Use sensors that are connected to a controller cabinet mounted on a pole adjacent to the roadway

Weigh-In-Motion (WIM) Stations

Each year, OTD collects WIM data at

- 14 permanent sites (approximately)
- 35 portable sites (approximately)

A permanent WIM site is a CCS that has additional equipment and software configured to detect vehicle weight.